

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
PERU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 124
SEPTEMBER 22, 2010, 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the month of September of the Board of Education of Peru Elementary School District 124, LaSalle County, Illinois, was called to order in the Choral Room at Parkside School, 1800 Church Street, Peru, IL, by Board President Jyll Leonatti, on Wednesday, September 22, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Leonatti led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Members Cynthia Gustat, Simon Kampwerth, C. G. Pillai, Vice President Jim Renk, and President Jyll Leonatti. ABSENT: Mark Lamboley and Jeff Sheppard

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Mark Cross, Board Secretary Kim Vezzetti, Lori Madden, Sara McDonald, Melissa Bosnich, Jenny Calhoun, Kaitlin Kubasiak, Abby Salomone, Mary Knaub, Cindy Vaske, Lindsay Ferrari, Justin Sullivan, Stacy O'Sadnick, Kelly Schaefer, and Jeff Dankert.

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the meeting agenda of September 22, 2010. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Pillai, Gustat, Kampwerth, Renk, and Leonatti. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Lamboley and Sheppard. **The motion carried 5-0.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, CORRESPONDENCE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you notes were received from Bill Twardowski, Rita Strickler, and Karen Koplin expressing appreciation for the plants sent in remembrance of each of their mothers. Katie Budnick also sent a thank you note for the plant she received following the birth of her daughter.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS

Mr. Cross reported that Peru Schools has 6 new faces in the district. The four new faculty members for the 2010-11 school term, along with 2 LEASE employees working at Northview School, were introduced by their either their principal or mentor. Jenny Calhoun, who serves as a Speech Pathologist at Northview School, was introduced by her mentor, Cindy Vaske. Preschool teacher Lindsay Ferrari introduced preschool teacher Stacy O'Sadnick and part-time speech pathologist Kelly Schaefer, who are part of the LEASE Pre-Primary Keys program housed at Northview School. Mary Knaub, technology teacher at Parkside was given an introduction by her mentor, Justin Sullivan.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION AND HEARING FOR THE FY2011 DISTRICT BUDGET

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Vice President Renk, to enter the Public Budget Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2011 district budget for Peru Public Schools. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Renk, Leonatti, Kampwerth, and Pillai. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Lamboley and Sheppard. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Mr. Cross presented the budget for Fiscal Year 2011 and pointed out changes that were made since the tentative budget was presented at the August 18, 2010 Board of Education meeting. Mr. Cross reviewed the summary sheet showing the projected revenues and expenditures in the district's nine funds. He pointed out a budget deficit in the Education Fund of \$390,669 due to anticipated shortfalls or delays in

funding from the state. Mr. Cross noted that all general state aid payments were received for FY2010; however, it is largely anticipated that this is much less likely in FY2011. There was also a significant shortfall in mandated categorical payments from the state, and this will continue in FY2011 as well. Clearly, next year's budgeted income depends greatly on timely payments from the state. Expenditures are up slightly from the previous year to due contractual obligations for employee salary and benefits. Mr. Cross added that the district maintains a healthy financial status at this time, but will need to be prepared to handle future budget shortfalls.

There were no questions or comments from the public during the Public Budget Presentation.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Renk, to exit the Public Budget Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2011 for Peru Public Schools. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, and Pillai. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Lamboley and Sheppard. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Principal Bosnich, along with new faculty members Kaitlin Kubasiak and Abby Salomone, arrived at the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Mrs. Bosnich introduced new 4th grade teacher Kaitlin Kubasiak and new part-time special education teacher Abby Salomone at Northview School.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- August 18, 2010 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- August 18, 2010 Board of Education Executive Session Minutes
- August 25, 2010 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- District Bills

ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Pillai, Renk, Leonatti, and Kampwerth. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Lamboley and Sheppard. **The motion carried 5-0.**

REPORTS, UPDATES, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Presentation of 2010-2013 Strategic Plan Draft

Due to the absence of Members Lamboley and Sheppard, Mr. Cross gave a brief update on the Strategic Plan Draft. There was some discussion on the possibility of incorporating a survey some teachers are doing with district parents as part of a project with their Master's program into the Strategic Plan. It was decided to wait to discuss the Strategic Plan until the Board was present in its entirety.

Spring 2010 Students Meeting and Exceeding Illinois State Standards

Mr. Cross presented information regarding reading and mathematics performances of our district students. He reported the district has seen consistent, long-term growth improvement trends. He attributes this to several factors including how we measure student growth from which to provide individual, small and large group instruction, a highly dedicated staff that has bought in to the efforts the district and administration has pushed toward, curriculum mapping and alignment with state standards, data driven instruction, instructional leadership focused on student learning and more engaged students through differentiated instruction, including technology in the classroom. He noted this progress was also seen in the students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged. Mr. Cross commended the staff and administration for their wonderful efforts.

Bright Futures Preschool Program Report

Mrs. McDonald provided an update on the Bright Futures Preschool Program. She reported the program is at its capacity of 80 students, with a waiting list of 7. She commended the preschool teachers for the progress reports they “tweaked” to be more similar to the current Kindergarten report cards. There was discussion on how to resolve collecting tuition from some families who have yet to make preschool tuition payments. Mr. Cross said he and Mrs. McDonald will discuss methods for dealing with this and will share more with the Board at a later date.

2010-2011 Enrollment Report

Mr. Cross reported that K-8 district enrollment is at 980 students, not including 80 students in the Bright Futures preschool program, for a total of 1,070 students in a district, a modern record high. The trend continues of having smaller class sizes in the lower grade levels with a sharp increase once reaching grades 3 through 5 and continuing into grades 6 through 8.

2010-11 Transportation Report

Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Cross provided a Transportation Report which breaks down the number of bus routes and how many students are riding the buses for all three district schools. Ms. Madden reported there are some buses close to being overcrowded at Parkside School, which may need to be addressed at some point in the near future. Mr. Cross reviewed the regular and special routes designations and cost estimates which are \$281,882. He noted that the extracurricular routes, field trips and fuel escalation charges were not included in this estimated cost. There was some discussion regarding the band and chorus routes two times daily provided to the students at Peru Catholic School at no charge which is estimated to cost \$12,678 this year.

Principals’ Reports

Northview School – Mrs. McDonald reported that the district’s new Positive Behavior Incentive System (PBIS) is working well. There is a noticeable difference in noise reduction in hallways and bus lines. The staff at Northview has been asked to model the new PBIS behaviors.

Washington School – Mrs. Bosnich reported that 80 students participated in the summer reading program at the Peru Public Library. They enjoyed being treated to lunch and recess at the park. Students are in the midst of AIMSweb testing. Finally, Mrs. Bosnich said she has been dealing with some bus discipline issues at Washington School.

Parkside School – Ms. Madden reported that diagnostic testing has helped Parkside get off and running with the reading program. PBIS training with students went well and there are noticeable positive changes in hallway behaviors. The Parkside Boys Baseball team will be playing for the Regional Championship on Thursday, September 23 at 4:15 p.m. at Wenona Fieldcrest. A title win would be a historical first in Peru Public Schools history. Ms. Madden also reported that Girls Basketball has begun at all Parkside grade levels. Mr. Cross suggested the Board take a minute to see the banners which were recently installed in the gymnasium. He commended Ms. Madden and Ms. Pannier for all of their efforts in this project.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Cross congratulated the Board for their high participation level in activities outside of our district meetings. Due to those great efforts, five of our seven members achieved Master Board Member status through the Illinois Association of School Boards. Mr. Cross added that Member Pillai would have also achieved this status, as he has in the past if not for his daughter’s wedding outside the country caused him to miss the Joint Annual Conference last November. Member Sheppard achieved Level 1 status which is the most he could achieve in his first year on the Board.

Member Kampwerth explained results from a recent meeting regarding the floor tile issue at Northview School. Floor tiles were installed in the summer of 2009 after an asbestos project was completed at the school. Eleven of sixteen classrooms have yellow stained tiles and they seem to be located in the middle of the rooms. There has not been any spread of discoloration possibly due to the seven coats of wax the floors have received since installation. The problem may be due to too much mastic on the floor leveler over the concrete or the adhesive used to glue down the tiles. Contractor Dave Sickley and the floor installer will take some tiles out and replace samples to test if they also will discolor. Repairs will not take place until next summer when the building is vacated.

Mr. Cross asked permission of the Board to post district bills online on our website. He also hopes to have the Board Policy Manual made available online in the future. The Board agrees as much information as possible available to the public is the direction in which to proceed.

Mr. Cross reported he was approached by a City of Peru Alderman to discuss a "Safe Routes to School Grant" which the city may be pursuing. This state grant would fund the development of bike paths and trails within the city.

Mr. Cross and district principals are looking into a different approach or format to the beginning of the year "Meet the Teacher" night in an effort to raise parent attendance. Mr. Cross welcomes suggestions from the Board and will update more at a later time.

Finally, Mr. Cross shared a letter with the Board which he received from the Illinois Association of School Boards and their recent award of Honorable Mention to the architect firm of Healy Bender & Associates for the design of Parkside School. A display of Parkside School will be exhibited at this year's Joint Annual Conference, November 18-21 in Chicago.

FY10 Salary, Compensation and Benefit Report

Mr. Cross presented a Salary, Compensation and Benefit Report for administrators and faculty for FY10. He reported that State Code requires the report to be posted on a school district's website by October 1, 2010, and the district is in compliance with this requirement. This information is also reported to the Illinois State Board of Education and Regional Office of Education.

Discussion Regarding Potential Storage Facility Construction at Parkside School

There was discussion regarding the need for a storage facility/garage at Parkside School. While there is storage space within the building, large outdoor PE equipment and other larger building equipment should be stored in an outside facility. Member Kampwerth presented to options to the Board. Option 1 would house the new facility where the current dumpsters are located at the southwest side of the building. They would be moved just south of where they currently are located, the new space could be minimized, and there would be no damage to the grass. Option 2 shows the located at the south end of the west parking lot where it would be visible from both Shooting Park Road and Church Street. The Board preferred Option 1. Mr. Cross provided a very rough estimate of \$60,000 - \$75,000, but that will depend on the size, materials used and bidding results. The Board thinks the exterior should match the School exterior and would like a bid on this. The Board also agrees that enough funds remain in the Parkside Bond to pay for this project and that now would be a great time to do this. Mr. Cross will make arrangements to further discuss size and space of the storage facility.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of the Peru Public Schools District 124 Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve the Peru Public Schools District 124 Fiscal Year 2011 Budget as presented. **ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE:**

Kampwerth, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, and Pillai. NAYS: None. ABSENT: Lamboley and Sheppard. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Service Agreement with Johnson Controls

Mr. Cross reported that the 2010-11 Service Agreement with Johnson Controls for Northview and Washington Schools will be \$7,475.

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Member Gustat, to approve the 2010-11 Service Agreement with Johnson Controls Northview and Washington Schools. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Gustat, Pillai, Renk, and Leonatti. NAY: None. ABSENT: Lamboley and Sheppard. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of 2009-10 ISBE Application for Recognition of Schools

Mr. Cross reported that the Application for Recognition of Schools must be approved by the Board on an annual basis prior to being sent to the Illinois State Board of Education.

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Pillai, to approve the 2010-11 ISBE Application for Recognition of Schools for Parkside, Washington, and Northview Schools. AYE 5, NAY 0, ABSENT 2. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of IVCH Health Clinic for Employees of Peru Public Schools

Mr. Cross reported the 2010 IVCH Employee Wellness Clinic for district employees will be held on Tuesday, November 9 at Washington School, Wednesday, November 10 at Northview School, and Thursday, November 11 at Parkside School.

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the 2010 Illinois Valley Community Hospital Health Clinic for employees of Peru Public Schools. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Kampwerth, Pillai, Renk, and Leonatti. NAY: None. ABSENT: Lamboley and Sheppard. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Appointment of Delegate and Alternate for the IASB Resolution Committee

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Renk, to appoint Member Sheppard as Delegate and Member Pillai as Alternate for the Illinois Association of School Boards Resolution Committee at the 2010 Joint Annual Conference. AYE 5, NAY 0, ABSENT 2. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Adoption of Resolution Designating Depositories for District Investment, Checking, Money Market, Imprest and Activity Fund Accounts

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Renk, to adopt a resolution designating Peru Federal Savings Bank of Peru, Illinois as a depository for the district's Checking, Money Market and Imprest Fund accounts, Citizens First National Bank of Princeton, Illinois as a depository for the district's Activity Fund account, and Hometown National Bank of LaSalle, Illinois as the district's Long-Term Investment accounts depository. ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Kampwerth, Renk, Leonatti, Gustat, and Pillai. NAY: None. ABSENT: Lamboley and Sheppard. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Northview Facility Lease Agreement with the LaSalle/Putnam County Educational Alliance for Special Education (L.E.A.S.E.)

MOTION: Moved by Member Gustat, seconded by Member Kampwerth, to approve the Northview facility lease agreement with the LaSalle/Putnam County Educational Alliance for Special Education (L.E.A.S.E.). ROLL CALL, VOTING AYE: Gustat, Kampwerth, Pillai, Renk, and Leonatti. NAY: None. ABSENT: Lamboley and Sheppard. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Appointment of Board Secretary Representatives to Receive the Nomination Papers for April 5, 2011 Board of Education Election

MOTION: Moved by Member Kampwerth, seconded by Vice President Renk, to approve Jeanine Sonnenberg and Beth Swingel as Board Secretary representatives who may also receive nomination papers for the April 5, 2011 Board of Education election. AYE 5, NAY 0, ABSENT 2. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Employment of Recommended Extracurricular Personnel

MOTION: Moved by Vice President Renk, seconded by Member Gustat to employ Kaitlin Kubasiak as girls' track coach and Lynda Kasik as Special Olympics coach for the 2010-11 school year. AYE 5, NAY 0, ABSENT 2. **The motion carried 5-0.**

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Moved by Member Pillai, seconded by Vice President Renk, to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. AYE 5, NAY 0, ABSENT 2. **The motion carried 5-0.**

Jyll Leonatti, Board President

Kim Vezzetti, Board Secretary